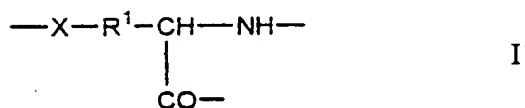


CLAIMS

1. A complex comprising, in admixture, a cationic polymer compound and an anionic active compound, characterised in that the polymer compound comprises a dendritic core having at least one dendron having n levels of dendritically linked trifunctional monomer units, cationic groups at at least 50% of the terminal branches of the at least one dendron, and an anchor moiety comprising at least two lipophilic C₆₋₂₄-alkyl, -alkenyl or -alkynyl groups covalently conjugated in the polymer compound.
2. A complex according to claim 1 in which the active compound is an oligo- or poly-nucleotide, preferably single- or double-stranded, linear or circular, DNA.
3. A complex according to claim 1 in which the dendritically linked monomer units are amino acid units, preferably of the formula I

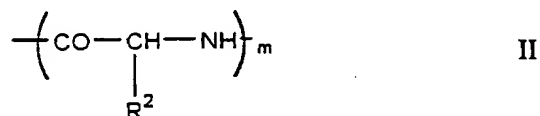


in which R¹ is C₁₋₆-alkanediyl; and

X is -O-, -NH-, -S- or -CO-.

4. A complex according to claim 3 in which R¹ is linear C₂₋₄-alkanediyl.
5. A complex according to claim 3 or claim 4 in which X is -NH-.
6. A complex according to any preceding claim in which the anchor group is joined to the focal group of the dendrimer.
7. A complex according to claim 6 in which the anchor group comprises lipidic amino acid units joined in series by peptide bonds, and is preferably of the formula

II

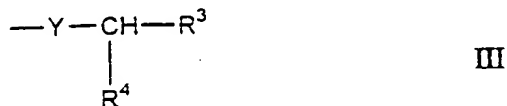


in which R² is C₆₋₂₄-alkyl, -alkenyl or -alkynyl, preferably C₈₋₁₆-alkyl; and

m is at least 2, preferably 3.

8. A complex according to any of claims 1 to 5 in which the anchor group comprises two or more lipophilic groups each joined to one of two or more terminal groups of a second dendron of dendritically linked trifunctional monomer units.

9. A complex according to claim 8 in which each lipophilic group has the
5 formula III



10 in which Y is -CO-, -NH-, -O- or -S-;

R^3 is an organic group containing at least one C_{6-24} -alkyl, -alkenyl or -alkynyl group; and

R^4 is hydrogen, amine, protected amine, blocked amine, hydroxyl, blocked hydroxyl, thiol, blocked thiol, carboxylic or blocked carboxylic, C_{1-5} -alkyl, -alkenyl or
15 -alkynyl group or is a group selected from the same groups as R^3 .

10. A complex according to claim 9 in which

Y is -CO-;

R^3 is C_{6-24} alkyl; and

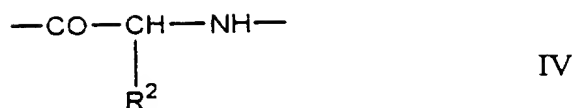
R^4 is $NHCOCH_3$.

20 11. A complex according to any preceding claim in which the number n of levels of dendritically linked units in the said at least one dendron is in the range 3 to 6, preferably 4 or 5 levels.

12. A complex according to claim 8 in which the number of levels of dendritically linked units in the second dendron is 2.

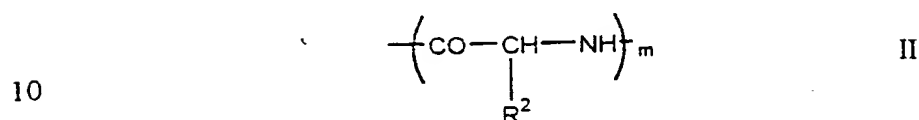
25 13. A complex comprising in admixture a cationic hydrophobised polypeptide compound and an anionic active compound, characterised in that the polypeptide compound comprises a cationic polypeptide moiety formed from amino acid units having pendant amine groups, and an anchor moiety joined to the cationic polypeptide moiety through peptide bonds, the anchor moiety comprising at least two groups of the formula

30 IV



5 in which R^2 is a C_{6-24} -alkyl, -alkenyl or -alkynyl group.

14. A complex according to claim 13 in which the anchor is a group of formula II

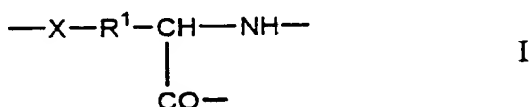


10 in which R^2 is C_{6-24} -alkyl, -alkenyl or -alkynyl, preferably C_{8-16} -alkyl; and

m is at least 2, preferably 3.

15. A complex according to claim 13 or 14 in which the active compound is an oligo- or poly-nucleotide, preferably single- or double-stranded, linear or circular, DNA.

16. A complex formed of an oligo- or polynucleotide and an anchored cationic polypeptide compound, in which the polypeptide compound comprises a core having at least one dendron of n levels of dendritically linked amino acid units of the formula I



25 in which R^1 is C_{1-6} -alkanediyl; and

X is -O-, -NH-, -S- or -CO-

and having cationic groups at at least 50% of the terminal branches and comprising an anchoring moiety conjugated to the polypeptide core.

17. A complex according to claim 16 in which the anchoring moiety is conjugated to the core through peptide bonds.

18. A complex according to claim 16 or claim 17 in which the oligo- or polynucleotide is counterionically bound to the cationic polypeptide.

19. A composition comprising a complex according to any preceding claim and a carrier.

20. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a complex according to any of claims 1 to 18 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5 21. Use of a complex according to any of claims 1 to 18 in a method of manufacturing a composition for use in a method of treatments of a human or animal by therapy.

22. An *in vitro* method in which a cell culture is transfected by a complex according to any of claims 2 and 15 to 18.

10 23. A method according to claim 22 in which the nucleotide encodes a peptide or protein product and in which, in a second step, the cell culture is assayed for the said product, or the said product is isolated.